



Tempe Art in Private Development



Centerpoint II

700 S. Mill Avenue

Mark Rossi

Three Blacktail Jackrabbits, 1993

Bronze

Artist Website:

www.RossiStudios.com

Description: The site-specific sculpture, based on the natural history of the Phoenix Salt River Valley, incorporates the artist's love for the Southwest (where the black-tailed jackrabbit is an indigenous element of the environment) with his knowledge of bronze. The outcome was an installation of three cast bronze black-tailed jackrabbits, standing 8-, 12- and 14-feet high and weighing between 1,000 and 1,500 pounds each. Black-tailed jackrabbits are a common sight in Arizona and are native to the desert surrounding the cities. In this sculpture, Rossi shows three colossal jackrabbits in natural poses around a large fountain. These jackrabbits are called the Restful Rabbit, the Guard Rabbit and the Groomer Rabbit because of their poses. Rossi continues his observation and exploration of the natural desert habitat and its creatures. His work is a combination of scientific study and aesthetic involvement in the surrounding environment.

Artist biography: Mark Rossi was born in Denver, Colorado, but the family moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma, where Rossi's father was director of the Gilcrease Museum. His love for the Southwest was nurtured by his mother's Apache, Pueblo and Spanish New Mexican heritage. His parents inspired his love for nature and art at an early age. As early as 10 years old, Rossi began to observe his father in his studio and foundry. Between his father's work and all of the influences which the Gilcrease gave to him, it would have been difficult to escape the force of art. Rossi went on to study fine art at the University of Tulsa and the University of Arizona.

Funding: This project was funded by the individual developer, D.M.B. Associates, Inc., as a requirement of Tempe's Art in Private Development Ordinance.